

Committee on Environment
Public Hearing
March 11, 2015

Opposition of Raised Bill No. SB 366 and 1063

AN ACT EXTENDING THE BAN ON THE USE OF LAWN CARE PESTICIDES TO SCHOOLS THAT HOUSE GRADES NINE TO TWELVE, INCLUSIVE, AND TO STATE FACILITIES

AN ACT CONCERNING THE APPLICATION OF PESTICIDES ON SCHOOL GROUNDS AND CERTAIN PUBLIC SPACES, AUTHORIZING THE USE OF CERTAIN MICROBIALS AND REESTABLISHING THE PESTICIDE ADVISORY COUNCIL.

Dear Committee on Environment,

The Town of East Haddam and the East Haddam School District prides ourselves on the appearance of our grounds and fields thought our community. East Haddam has invested hundreds of thousands of dollars in building our athletic fields and because of the pesticide restrictions, we are not able to properly take care of them. Additionally, these restrictions have caused a substantial amount of additional work and expense to maintain these fields and they are deteriorating more and more every year as a result.

The products which we are being prevented from using have been vetted by the EPA and the CT DEEP and are safe to use responsibly. The EPA is constantly reviewing these products and, if they discover that a product, after a period of time for whatever reason, is unsafe, they remove it from the market.

When the law went into effect, it was written to say that absolutely NO pesticides could be used on the fields and properties. This meant that any pesticide, no matter what it's chemical makeup, no matter what it was being used for, no matter what it's degree of toxicity could be used. It would have been better and more reasonable if the law allowed for a group of scientists, educators and administrators to review the most commonly used products and decide which are the safest and most effective for use.

East Haddam has had the UCONN agricultural group, local horticultural groups and several landscape companies look at our fields. We have spent thousands of dollars following different recommendations and at the end of the day we still have fields at our Middle and Elementary schools that are an embarrassment to our community.

The passing of these raised bill will greatly increase the cost to our municipality to maintain our High School grounds and other municipal properties, as has been proven by the issues with our K-8 field since the initial ban went into effect.

We all agree that there is nothing more important than the health and safety of the children but do believe there are products on the market today that are vetted and could be used to help improve the quality of our grounds while maintaining the safety of all our kid.

Sincerely,

Craig Mansfield

Craig Mansfield
Director of Facilities

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